

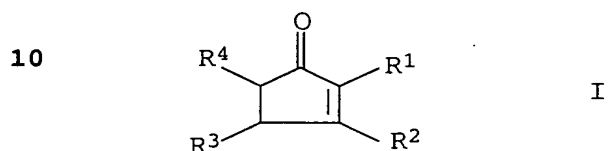
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Improved preparation of cyclopentenones

Abstract

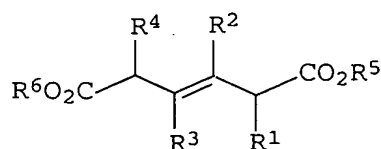
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The present invention provides a process for preparing 2-cyclopentenones of the general formula:



where R^1 to R^4 are each hydrogen atoms or are alkyl or alkenyl radicals having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl radicals having from 5 to 7 carbon atoms, aralkylene or aryl radicals, by converting hexenedioic acids and/or their esters of the general formulae

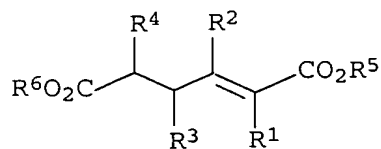
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II

or



III

where R^1 to R^4 are each as defined above and R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen atoms or are alkyl radicals having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl radicals having 5 or 6 carbon atoms, aralkyl or aryl radicals, at temperatures of from 150 to 450°C, over solid, oxidic catalysts, wherein the catalysts on an oxidic support material comprise from 0.01 to 5% by weight of at least one alkali metal oxide.

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